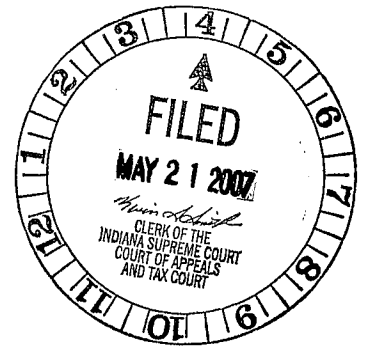


In the
Indiana Supreme Court



In the Matter of:)	Supreme Court Cause No.
Richard M. BASH,)	48S00-0703-DI-99
Respondent.)	

ORDER REFERRING PETITION FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION TO HEARING OFFICER
AND APPOINTING HEARING OFFICER TO HEAR EMERGENCY MATTER

The Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, pursuant to Indiana Admission and Discipline Rule 23(11.1)(b), files a "Verified Emergency Petition For Order Of Interim Suspension Pursuant To Indiana Admission And Discipline Rule 23(11.1)(b)," asking that Respondent be immediately suspended from the practice of law in this State, pending further order of this Court or final resolution of any resulting disciplinary action, due to alleged misconduct that may cause the continued practice of law by Respondent during the pendency of a disciplinary investigation or proceeding to pose a substantial threat of harm to the public, clients, potential clients, or the administration of justice. Respondent filed an objection denying in pertinent part the allegations of misconduct.

Being duly advised and after consideration of all material submitted, the Court concludes this matter should be referred to a hearing officer pursuant to Admission and Discipline Rule 23(11.1)(b)(3)(iii). The Court notes that the Honorable John W. Forcum, Judge of the Blackford Superior Court, is currently presiding as the hearing officer in another disciplinary action against Respondent, In re Bash, Cause No. 48S00-0603-DI-89.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **the Honorable John W. Forcum, Judge of the Blackford Superior Court** is appointed to hear this matter pursuant to Admission and Discipline Rule 23, and is directed to qualify and assume jurisdiction.

The hearing officer has the authority and affirmative duty to manage this case and to bring it to conclusion expeditiously. Pursuant to Admission and Discipline Rule 23(11.1)(b)(4), "the hearing officer shall hold a hearing thereon within thirty (30) days of the date of referral and render a report to the Court containing findings of fact and a recommendation within fourteen (14) days of the hearing."

A publication entitled "Attorney Disciplinary Cases: A Guide for Hearing Officers" may be found on the Court's website at www.in.gov/judiciary/admin/pubs.html.

The Clerk of this Court is directed to send a copy of this Order to the Honorable John W. Forcum, Judge of the Blackford Superior Court, 110 West Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana 47348; and to the parties in this cause or their respective attorneys.

DONE at Indianapolis, Indiana, this 21st day of May, 2007.

FOR THE COURT,

Randall T. Shepard
Randall T. Shepard
Chief Justice of Indiana

Dickson, Sullivan, and Rucker, JJ., concur.

Shepard, C.J., dissents and would order interim suspension.

Boehm, J., is not participating in this proceeding.